

**Amendment to the Specification:**

Please replace the Abstract with the following amended Abstract:

An overhead passing processing circuit in a synchronous multiplex network, with a circuit for extracting predetermined administration and maintenance operating information from multiplexed signals, a crossconnecting circuit for crossconnecting information extracted by the extraction circuit stage, and an insertion circuit for inserting an output of the crossconnecting circuit into a predetermined location in the overhead of the multiplexed signal to be transmitted.